विधि, न्याय और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) और (ख) मतदाताओं को फोटो पहचान पत्र जारी करने का प्रस्ताव काफी समय से सरकार के विचाराधीन है । सिक्किम और नागालैंड राज्यों में इसके पूर्व चयनात्मक आधार पर कार्यान्वित की गई पहचान पत्र जारी किए जाने की स्कीम को लागू करने के अनुभव के आधार पर, निर्वाचन आयोग की यह राय है कि केवल मतदान के प्रयोजन के लिए फोटो पहचान पत्र जारी करने से कोई सार्थक प्रयोजन सिद्ध नहीं होगा; इसके बजाय सभी नागरिकों को उनकी व्यक्तिगत पहचान, जहां कहीं भी अपेक्षित हो, स्थापित करने के प्रयोजन के लिए बहुउद्देशीय पहचान पत्र जारी किए जाने चाहिए ।

(ग) और (घ) सभी नागरिकों को ऐसे बहुउद्देशीय फोटो पहचान पत्र जारी करने की संभाव्यता अभी स्थापित की जानी है और यह बताना संभव नहीं है कि इस बारे में कब तक अंतिम विनिश्चय किया जाएगा या उस पर कितना व्यय होगा ।

Amnesty in petty criminal cases pending in courts of Madhya Pradesh

1290 SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Madhya Pradesh Government had taken a decision to grant amnesty in petty criminal cases, pending in courts till 1987 and thereby saving approximately Rs. 1 crore every year on account of the cost of holding trails; and

(b) the number of petty criminal cases in the courts of Madhya Pradesh and the cases pending in the country State-wise, as on the December, 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The information *is being collected* and will be laid on the Table of the House. 10—148RSS/94

Pending cases in High Courts and Supreme Court

1291. SHRI AN ANT RAM JAISWAL SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

i (a) the number of cases pending in each High Court and the Supreme Court of India, as on 3lst January, 1993;

(b) the year to which the oldest case pertains to in each of the High Courts and

! Supreme Court;

i (c) whether there is any action plan to clear all the cases in a time bound period;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what is the justification to close the courts for summer and winter vacations when a large number of cases are pending in the various courts; and

(f) whether Govemment would like *to* have a fresh look on this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The various recommenda tions made by the Arrears Committee, which examined the problem of arrears in the Courts, covering various aspects have been commended to all concerned State Governments/High Courts for necessary follow-up action. As per the decis.on taken in the Law Ministers Conference held in October, 1992 at Bangalore, three working groups of the State Law Ministers have been constituted to suggest measures for the implementation of the recommen dations of the Arrears Committee so as to expedite the disposal of pending cases in the Courts. However, it is not practicable to prescribe a time schedule for the dis posal of pending cases in the Courts.

(e) and (f) on the basis of the observations made by the Estimate Committee, the Supreme Court had increased its working days from 220 to 222 (including Saturdays). The Chief Justices' Conference held in 1987 did not accept the suggestion for further increasing the working days

from 210. However, one of the recommendations made by the Arrears Committee relates to either increasing the working hours of the High Courts by half an hour each day or the total number of working days of the High Courts by 21 days. As to which of the two alternatives should be preferred may be left to the High Courts to decide taking into consideration the views of the Bar. The recommendations of the Arrears Comm.ttee have already been commended to all the High Courts.

Proposal *to* legislate to ban political parties from exploiting religious sentiments

1292. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA ; SHM SARADA MOHANTY : SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to ban political parties from exploiting relig ous sentiments during electioneering to grab vote-banks and gain political power in the contest of Ayodhya happening on Decem ber, 6, 1992 and the aftermath thereof;

(b) if so, whit decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) whether any legislation on the sub ject is proposed to be brought in the Parliament ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFARS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) There is no such pre posal under consideration of the Govern' ment at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Micro-Hydel Schemes for U.P.

1293. SHRI SOMPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have finance micro-hydel schemes for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes;

(c) whether these are working to their recommended capacity as given in the project/scheme; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cantol Government have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 215.10 lakhs to Non-Conventional Energy Development Agency (NEDA), U.P. since 1989-90 for setting up of 17 nos. micro hydel schemes in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. The details are as per Statement attached *(see* below).

(c) The installation of only the 5 schemes at Sahastradhara, Dior, Naini, Khet, and Bilkot has so far been completed. All these schemes except those at Bilkot and Dior are reported to be working to their recommended capacity.

(d) (1) BILKOT micro hydel scheme has experenced unsatisfactory functioning of indigenously developed electronic load controller and control panel, and inadequate design of civil works resulting in adequate power generation. UP's Nodal agency NEDA has initiated remedial measures to optimise the performance.

(2) DIOR micro hydel project is also a technology development effort. Its indigenously developed cross-flow turbine and electronic load controller are mal-function-ing. R&D efforts are being made to improve the efficiency of cross-flow turbine, and reliability and performance of electronic load controller.